THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women Act, 1990 adequately empowers the National Commission for Women to investigate and examine matters relating to safeguards provided for women and suggest remedies, whenever necessary, which are required to be acted up by concerned authorities. In the exercise of such powers to fulfill its functions specified in Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission, during the first three years, has:

(a) reviewed several laws affecting women and recommended amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to overcome the shortcomings in such legislations;

(b) looked into over 800 cases relating to atrocities, deprivation of women's rights etc. and taken them up with the appropriate authorities;

(c) organised 23 workshops/seminars/conferences on issues concerning women and published reports thereon,

(d) commissioned about 31 study projects on gender issues;

(e) organised public enquiries on 'women in unorganised sector' and 'crimes against women';

(f) set up six Expert Committees on various subjects, including social security, laws and legislations, justice delivery system, custodial justice and development of tribal women to study special issues.

(g) organised consultations with lady members of Parliament and NGOs on issues concerning women.

Review of Education Policy

4165. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately undertaken a review and revision of the Education Policy according greater priority to Primary Education and privatising higher education to divert funds from higher education to primary education;

(b) if so, what decision have also since been taken in the matter; and

(c) the details of the projects to be taken in implementation thereof in the years to come?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The extant policy is the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which was last reviewed and updated in 1992. Universalisation of Elementary Education has been accorded high priority in the policy. The NPE also envisages encouragement of non-government and voluntary effort, subject to proper management.

Technology for conversion of mineral

4166. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest technology for conversion of mineral; Calcium Bentonite, to Sodium Bentonite, is available in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to seek help from other developed/advance countries in this regard for the benefits of Indian exporters/dealers. and

(c) what other facilities Government propose to give in this field